



HIS MAJESTIES

DECLARATION

To all HIS Loving *SUBJECTS*,

V P O N

Occasion of a late Printed P A P E R

E N T I T U L E D,

A Declaration and Protestation
of the *Lords* and *Commons* in *Parliament*
of this Kingdome, and the whole world
of the 22^d. of OCTOBER.

The Kings Proclamation to His Countye of
KENT; With the Humble Petition of both Houses

O F

P A R L I A M E N T.

Presented to His Majestie on the 24th. of *November*.
With His *Majestie's* Gracious Answer thereunto.

Printed by His M A J E S T I E S Command, at

O X F O R D.

By *Leonard Lichfield* Printer to the *University*. 1642.

HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION,
to all His loving Subjects, upon occasion of
a late printed Paper,

Entituled, A Declaration and Protestation of the Lords and
Commons in Parliament to this Kingdome, and the
whole World, of the 22^d. of October.

IF in truth the Framers of this Declaration are not engaged by any
private passion or respect, by any evil intention to Our person, or
designe to the prejudice of Our just Honour and Authority, to raise
these forces and Army against Vs (as they call Almighty God to
witness they are not) they will thinke it their duty to disclaime
the Protection of the Conductors of that Army, who the next day
after this solemne Protestation, used their utmost power by the strength of
that Army to have destroyed Vs, and put Our Person (for whose defence they would
make the world believe this Army is raised) into as much danger as the skill and ma-
lice of desperate Rebels could doe, otherwise this Protestation now made, will ap-
peare of the same nature with those by which they promised to make Vs a Glorious
King, when by their *inverted Propositions* they endeavoured to strip Vs of all those
rights which made Vs a King, and their Subjects.

What those Actions and proceedings have beene which have manifested their
loyalty and Obedience unto Vs, will be as hard to find, as their humble Petitions
and remonstrances, when in truth their Actions have bin the greatest scornes of Our
Authority, and their Petitions the greatest reproaches and challenges of Vs, which
by age have produced; And we have not only the cleere evidence of Our owne
Conscience, but the testimony of all good men, that We left no action unperformed
on Our part, which might have prevented the misery and confusion which the Am-
bition, Fury, and malice of these seditious persons have brought upon this poore
Kingdome, neither is there any thing wanting to the happinesse of Church and State,
but that peace and order which the faction of these men have robbed them of.

But they directed their Generall the Earle of *Essex* to deliver an humble Pe-
tition to Vs, wherein they desire nothing from Vs, but that Wee would returne in
peace to our *Parliament*, and by their faithfull Counsell and advice compose the di-
tempers and confusions abounding in our Kingdome, as Wee are bound to doe.
Wee were never so backward in receiving, or so slow in answering the Petitions of
either or both our Houses of *Parliament*, that there was need by an Army to quicken
Vs, whilst either or both Houses of *Parliament* have in no case no more shadow

of Right or power to raise by a y Law, Custem, or Priviledge, then they have by their votes to take away the lives and fortunes of all the Subjects of *England* yet the Framers of this Declaration take it unkindly, that upon their profession in the sight of Almighty God (which is they say the strongest assurance that any Christian can give) Wee did not put our selve into their hands (those hands which were lifted up against us, and filled at that time with Armes to destroy us) and leave a strength God had supplied us with, of good and faithfull Subjects, who notwithstanding all their threats and menaces had brought themselves to Our assistance. If that Petition had been so humble as they pretended, they would not have lost the advantage of publishing it in this their Declaration, that the world might as well have beene witness of our refusall of peace, as it hath been of their disdain of any way to it, when they rejected our severall earnest offers of a Treaty.

But why did they not send this humble Petition? *His Excellence* twice sent unto Vs for a safe conduct for those who should be imployed therein, & we refused to give any, or to receive the humble & dutifull petition. Sure when Our good Subjects shall understand the strange enmity betwene these men and truth, the no-conscience they use in publishing, and informing those by whom they pretend to bee trusted, things monstrous and contrary to their owne knowledge, they will not be lesse offended with their falshood to them, then their Treason to Vs. 'Tis well knowne wee never refused to give admittance to any Message or petition from either or both Houses of *Parliament*, their Messengers have been received and entertained not only with that safety, but with that candor, as is due to the best Subjects, when their Errand hath bin full of reproach and scorn, and the bringers bold, arrogant, and seditious in their demeanour, and therefore there needed to have bin no more scruple made in the delivery of this, then the other Petitions which have beene brought Vs; the truth is, we were no sooner acquainted at *Shrewsbury* by the *Earle of Dorset* that hee had received a letter from the *Earle of Essex* intimating that he had a petition from both Houses to be delivered to Vs, and to that purpose asking a safe convoy for those who should be sent, but wee returned this Answer, That as we had never refused to receive any Petition from our Houses of *Parliament*, so we should be ready to give such a reception and Answer to this as should bee fit, and that the bringers of it should come and go with all safety, only we required that none of those persons whom we had particularly accused of High Treason should be, by colour of that petition, imployed to Vs. After this we heard no more till a second Letter, at least a fortnight after the first, to the *Earle of Dorset*, informed Vs, that our former Answer was declared to be a breach of priviledge that we would not allow any Messengers to come to Vs, that is, that wee were not content that such persons who had conspired our death, might securely come into our presence; our second Answer differed little from our former, insisting that the addresse should not be made by any of those persons whom we had particularly accused of High Treason,

son, amongst whom the *Earle of Essex* himselfe was one, but declaring that our
care should be still open to heare any petition from our two Houses of *Parlia-*
ment: whether this were a denyall from Vs to receive their petition, or whether
if our two Houses of *Parliament* had indeed desired to Treat with Vs by petition,
they might not as well have sent it to us, as they have done since, their Instructi-
ons to their Ambassadors into *Ireland*, and their new Bill for rooting out Epi-
scopacy, and devising a new forme of Church-governement, let all the world
judge. We have reason to beleieve that the petition then prepared for us (if We
have seene the true copie of it) was thought by the persons trusted for the pre-
senting it, fitter to be delivered after a Battell and full conquest of us, then in the
head of Our Army, when it might seeme somewhat in Our power whether we
would be deposed or no.

For that continued dishonest Accusation of our Inclination to the Papists
(which the Authors of it in their own consciences (which will one day be dread-
full to them) know to be most unjust and groundlesse,) We can say no more, and
we can doe no more to the satisfaction of the world, if they know that the Ro-
mish Priests have encouraged those of that Religion to conforme themselves to
the Protestant Religion, by coming to Church, receiving the Sacrament, & tak-
ing the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, they are more conversant with the
subtilties of them then we are, but we must confesse till we be certaine they have
found that way to deceive Vs, that is, to delude the Lawes which are against
them, we shall in Charity believe their conformity to be real, and not pretended;
but that any Priests or Jesuites imprisoned have beene releas'd by Vs out of the
Goale of *Lancaster*, or any other Goale, is as false (to use an expression of their
own) as the Father of Lyes could invent, neither are the persons named in that
Declaration to whom Commissions are supposed to be granted for places of com-
mand in this war; so much as known to Vs, nor have they any commā^d, or, to our
knowledge, are present in Our Army, and 'tis strange that our oaths and Pro-
testations before Almighty God, for the maintenance of the Protestant Religion
should be so slighted in the end of this Declaration, when in the beginning of it,
it is acknowledged to be the strongest obligation and assurance that any Christian
can give. Wee desire to have our Protestations believed by the evidence of our
Actions. But they are informed (and that is ground enough for them to lay
the basest imputation upon their Sovereigne) that Sir *John Henderson* and Colo-
nell *Cockram* (men of ill report both for Religion and honesty) are sent to *Ham-*
borough and *Denmark*; (we thought we should have heard no more newes from
Denmarke) to raise forraign forces and to bring them hither. We have before in
our Declarations (sufficient to satisfy any honest man,) declared our opinion
and resolution concerning Forraigne Force, and Wee had never greater cause to
be confident of security in our own Subjects, and therefore cannot believe so vile
a scandall can make any impression in sober men. Let a list of the Nobility and
Gentry about Vs; and in our service be viewed, and will they not bee found the
most

most zealous in the Protestant Religion, the most eminent in reputation, of the greatest fortunes, and the greatest fame, the most publicke Lovers of their Country, and most earnest assertors of the Liberty of the Subject, that this Kingdome hath? how different the reputation of the principall ring-leaders of this faction and rebellion is, *how careful they are of employing vertuous and honest men, is apparent to all the world, when they have entertained all the desperate and necessitous Persons (whereof very many are Papists. Which We speake knowingly, as having taken severall of them prisoners) they can draw to them, and when they supersede a proceeding at the Common Law for an odious and infamous crime, that M. Griffen may have liberty to keep them company in this Rebellion.*

For our affection and gracious Inclination to the City of London, and how farre we are from any such purpose, as these impious men charge us with, appears in our late Proclamation, in which we declare the Suburbs to be comprehended as well as the Citie of London and Westminster, to which we doubt not they will give that credit and obedience, as we shal have cause to commend their loyalty in joyning with us to suppress this Rebellion, which uncontrolled, in a short time, must make that place most miserable.

For the Oath and Covenant which they threaten us with, if it be to engage them to doe or not to doe any thing contrary to the Oathes they have already taken of allegiance and supremacy, as it cannot oblige them being taken, so we doubt not our good Subjects will easily discern that it is a snare to betray and lead them into a condition of the same guilt, and so of the same danger with themselves; And we must therefore declare whosoever shall hereafter suffer himselfe to be cozened by those Stratagems, and take such a voluntary Oath against us, we shall impute it to so much malice, as will render him incapable of our pardon, and shall proceed against him as a desperate Promoter of sedition, and an enemy to the Kingdom.

Let all honest men remember the many gracious Acts we have passed this Parliament for the ease and benefit of our people, that when there was nothing left undone or unoffered by us, which might make this Nation happy, these mischievous contrivers of ruine, instead of acknowledging our grace and Justice, upbraided us with all the reproaches malice and cunning could invent in a remonstrance to the people (a thing never heard of till that time) that having thus incensed mutinous and seditious mindes, they made use of them to awe the Parliament, drave us, and the major part of both Houses from our City of London, that they took away our Fort and Town of Hull from us, kept us from thence by force of armes, and employed our own Magazine against us, that they seized upon our Royall Navy, and with it chained our good Subjects, and kept all supply from us, that they voted away our negative voyce, and then raised a formidable Army to destroy us, that when they had thus compelled us, by the help of such of our good Subjects who against the fury of these men, durst continue loyal, to raise some power for our defence, they absolutely and peremp-

fortly refused to treat with us for the peace of the Kingdome; and lastly that on the 23^d of October they brought this Army (raised for the defence of our person) into the Field against us, and used their best skill and means to destroy us and our Children, we say whoever remembers and considers this p.ogresse of theirs, will think of no other Covenant then to joyne with us in the apprehending the Authors of this miserable Civil-Warre, that possibly they may not with shame and indignation finde that a few Schismaticall ambitious persons, were able to bring such a flourishing glorious Kingdome, which hath to long resisted the envy of Christendome, to a speedy desolation, to satisfy their own pride and ambition. And we doubt not our good Subjects of *Scotland*, will never think themselves engaged by the Act of pacification (to which we willingly consented) to assist a Rebellion against their own naturall King, for the assistance of persons accused and notoriously known to be guilty of high treason, the bringing of whom to condigne punishment, would with Gods blessing, be a speedy means of happinesse and peace to our three Kingdomes.

BY THE KING. *A Proclamation of His Majesties Grace, Favour, and Pardon to the Inhabitants of His County of Kent.*

WHereas we have taken notice, that by the malice, industry and importunity of severall ill-affected and seditious persons in our County of Kent, very many of our weak and seduced Subjects of that our County have not only been drawn to exercise the Militia, under colour of a pretended Ordinance, without and against our consent (a crime of a very high nature, if we would strictly enquire thereunto) but have made contributions of plate, money and horses, towards the maintenance of the Army now in rebellion against us; We do hereby publish and declare, that we are graciously pleased to attribute the crimes and offences of our said Subjects of that County to the power and faction of their seducers, who, we beleeve by threats, menaces, and false informations compelled and led them into these actions of uncharitablenesse and disloyalty towards us; And we do therefore hereby offer our free and gracious pardon to all Inhabitants of our said County of Kent, for all offences concerning the premises committed against us before the publishing of this our Proclamation (except Sir Michaell Lively Baronet, and Thomas Blount Esquire,) against whom we shall proceed according to the Rules of the Law, as against Traitors and Stirrers of sedition against us, and whom we do hereby require all our Officers and Ministers of Justice, and all our loving Subjects whatsoever, to apprehend and cause to be kept in safe Custody till our pleasure be further known. Provided that this our Grace shall not extend to any person, who after the publishing this our Proclamation shall presume by Loane or contribution to assist the said Army of rebels, to assemble and Muster themselves in Armes without Authority derived from us under our hand, to enter into any Oath of Association for opposing us and our Army, or to succour or entertaine any of the persons excepted in this our Proclamation, or in our Declaration of the 17. of August. But we must and do declare, that whosoever shall hence forward be guilty of the premises, or of either of them, shall be esteemed by us as an Enemy to the publick Peace, a Person disaffected to us, and to the Religion and Law of the Kingdome, and shall accordingly receive condigne punishment, of which we give them timely notice, that they may proceed

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accordingly at their perill's.

And we do hereby will and require our high Sheriffe, Commissioners of Array, Iustices of the Peace, and all other our Officers, and loving Subjects to resist, oppose and apprehend all such Persons as shall presume to make any Leavies in that our County under what pretence soever without Authority derived from us under our hand; And we likewise will and require them and every of them to be assistant to all such as shall either command the Traine Bands of that our County, or make any Leavies in the same by virtue of Commission under our great Seale or Signe Manuall.

Given at Our Court at Reading, this eight day of November, in the Eighteenth yeare of Our Reigne. God save the King.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty:

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

May it please Your MAJESTY,

IT is humbly desired by both Houses of Parliament, That Your Majesty will be pleased to return to your Parliament with your Royall, not your Martiall Attendance; to the end that Religion, Laws, and Liberties may be settled and secured by their advice, Finding by a late and sad accident, that your Majesty is invaded by some such Counsellors as do rather perswade a desperate division, then a joyning and a good agreement with your Parliament and people. And We shall be ready to give your Majesty assurances of such security, as may be for your Honour, and the safety of your Royall Person.

HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER to the aforesaid Petition.

WE expected such propositions from you as might speedily remove and prevent the misery and desolation of this Kingdome, and that for the effecting thereof (we now residing at a convenient place not farre from our City of London) Committees from both our Houses of Parliament should attend us (for you pretended by your Message to us at Colebrooke that those were your Desires.) Instead thereof (and thereby let all the world judge of the designe of that overture) we have onely received your humble Petition, that we would be pleased to returne to our Parliament with our Royall, not our Martiall Attendance. All our good Subjects that remember what we have so often told you and them upon this subject, and what hath since past, trust with indignation looke upon this Message, as intended by the Contrivers thereof for a Scorne to us, and thereby designed by that Malignant party (of whom we have so often complained, whose safety and ambition is built upon the Divisions and ruines of this Kingdome, and who have too great an influence upon your Actions) for a Wall of separation betwixt us and our people. We have told you the reasons why we parted from London, how we were chased thence, and by whom; We have often complained that the greatest part of our

Peers, and of the Members of our House of Commons could not with safety to their Honours and Persons, continue and Vote freely among you, but by violence and cunning practises were debarred of those Priviledges which their Birth-rights, and the trust reposed in them by their Countries gave them; the truth whereof may sufficiently appear by the small number of those that are with you. We have offered you to meet both our Houses in any place free and convenient to us and them, but we never could receive the least satisfaction in any of these particulars, nor for those scandalous and seditious Pamphlets and Sermons which swarme amongst you. That's all one, you tell us, it is now for our Honour, and the safety of our Royall Person, to return to our Parliament wherein your formerly denying us a negative voyce, gives us cause to beleieve, that by giving your selves that name without us, you intend not to acknowledge us to be part of it. The whole Kingdome knowes that an Army was raised under pretence of Orders of both Houses (an usurpation never heard of before in any age) which Army hath pursued us in our own Kingdome, gave us Battaille at *Keynton* and endeavoured to take away the life of us and our Children, and yet (these Rebels being newly recrowted and possessed of our City of *London*) we are courteously invited to return to our Parliament there, that is, into the power of this Army. Doth this signifie any other thing, then that since the traitorous endeavours of those desperate men could not snatch the Crown from our Head (it being defended by the providence of God, and the Affections and Loyalty of our good Subjects) we should now tamely come up and give it them, and put our selves, our life, and the lives, Liberties and fortunes of all our good Subjects into their mercyfull hands? Well, we think not fit to give any other Answer to this part of your Petition. But as we impute not this affront to both our Houses of Parliament, nor to the major part of those that are now present there, but to that dangerous party we and the whole Kingdome must cry out upon, So we shall for our good Subjects sake, and out of our most tender sence of their miseries and the Generall calamities of this Kingdome, which must (if this Warre continue) speedily overwhelm this whole Nation, take no advantage of it; But if you shall really pursue what you presented to us at *Colebrooke*, we shall make good all that we then gave you in Answer to it; Whereby the hearts of our distressed Subjects may be raised with the hopes of Peace, without which, Religion, the Lawes and Liberties can no way be settled and secured. Touching the late and sad Accident you mention, If you thereby intend that of *Braine-ford*, we desire you once to deal ingeniously with the people, and to let them see our last Messige to you, and our Declaration to them concerning the same, (both which we sent to our Presse at *London*, but were taken away from our Messenger, and not suffered to be published) and then we doubt not but they will be soon undeceived, and easily finde out those Comintell, which do rather perswade a desperate Division, then a good agreement betwixt us, our two Houses, and People.